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managing data with **CONFIDENCE**

How standards can help you stay in control of data storage, access security and management processes

Managing Data with Confidence

Every organization runs on data. Information that it generates internally, receives externally, and stores for the short or long-term. This data can relate to its own operations, its employees and partners, and its customers or users. Tim McGarr, Sector Lead (Digital) at BSI explains how standards can help businesses stay in control.

With new information generated continually, it's imperative to stay in control of data storage, access security and management processes. Also, with the [GDPR](#) now firmly in place, the financial consequences of a significant data breach are very serious – not to mention the reputational damage a high profile incident can cause.

Surprisingly, given what's at stake, a [2019 IBM cybersecurity study](#) of global security and IT professionals found that three-quarters of businesses don't have a plan to respond to a cybersecurity incident. Further to this, almost half (45%) of those companies with a process in place don't test it enough to stay up to date.

These findings are even more concerning in light of research [published by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#), suggesting that every data breach or cyber incident results in losses of £4,180 on average - up from £3,160 in 2018 – for businesses.

Although the study targeted relevant industry professionals, the fact is that data and cybersecurity are no longer considered just the responsibility of the IT department. All employees are accountable for maintaining data security, regardless of organization type or sector.

Thankfully, there are several internationally recognized standards that companies can use to guide their data management. Standards, such


as [ISO/IEC 27001](#) Information Security Management, help inform new processes, improve employee training procedures and ease legislative compliance; while others, like [BS 31111](#), help managers understand the cyber risk landscape to build resilience against cyberattacks.

New standards are also being introduced to keep up with the ever-changing cybersecurity landscape. For instance, [ISO/IEC 27701](#) Privacy Information Management – an extension to ISO/IEC 27001 – provides specific guidance on privacy protection through optimized personal information management. The standard helps companies build trust and increase transparency – clarifying key roles and responsibilities for all staff.

An important element of good data privacy is secure storage. With cloud services now the norm, it's critical to select the right provider. There are three related standards to help organizations make informed choices and then manage their storage arrangements in partnership with their selected cloud partners. ISO/IEC 27001 and [ISO/IEC 27002](#) are used to optimize cybersecurity, while [ISO/IEC 27017](#) aids with cloud service specific controls.


Any kind of data loss or security breach is bad for businesses – it damages trust, can incur fines and draws unwanted attention to the company. The GDPR introduced strict penalties for non-compliance, unequivocally placing responsibility with the organization, giving EU residents and citizens ultimate control over their personal information.

Key Data Management Standards




PROTECTING COMPANY INFORMATION

- ISO/IEC 27001**
Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements
- ISO/IEC 27002**
Information technology – Security techniques – Code of practice for information security controls
- ISO/IEC 27003**
Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management system implementation guidance
- ISO/IEC 27005**
Information technology – Security techniques – Information security risk management
- BS 7799-3**
Information security management systems – Guidelines for information security risk management



PROTECTION AGAINST CYBERASSAULTS

- ISO/IEC 27032**
Information technology – Security techniques – Guidelines for cybersecurity



DATA MANAGEMENT AND CLOUD STORAGE

- ISO/IEC 27017**
Information technology – Security techniques – Code of practice for information security controls based on ISO/IEC 27002 for cloud services
- ISO/IEC 27018**
Information technology – Security techniques – Code of practice for protection of personally identifiable information (PII) in public clouds acting as PII processors
- ISO/IEC 27701**
Privacy Information Management – Security techniques. Extension to ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002. Requirements.
- BS ISO/IEC 19944**
Information technology – Cloud computing – Cloud services and devices Data flow, data categories and data use

It's also important to remember there are over 100 other different territorial data privacy regulations – each with varying requirements and stipulations. [BS 10012](#) helps companies define their GDPR risks and compliance requirements, then implement a personal information management system in a way that's best for their business.

Employee awareness and understanding of data security and privacy responsibilities are critical to reduce organizational risk. Creating a clear policy for all staff, in line with ISO/IEC 27001 requirements, is the best way to mitigate threats to security. It's worth consulting [ISO/IEC 38500](#), which provides guidance for IT governance. Regular, tailored training and engagement sessions keep staff focused on their collective responsibility. This is also critical to help reduce the [human error](#) factor.

Using recognized standards to inform data protection and privacy processes helps companies understand their current, and potential, levels of exposure and provides a framework of controls to manage or reduce them. Selecting and managing the right group of standards for

your company is easy with [BSOL](#), a simple online tool that gives you instant access to the standards you need. It's easy to build your own database of relevant standards, access everything you need digitally and stay right up to speed with the latest updates and revisions.

Finally, certification helps to gain stakeholder and customer trust, providing reassurances that their personal data is protected, and often providing a boost to corporate reputation in the process. It also increases transparency between supply partners, reassuring all parties that appropriate controls are in place and pushing accountability far down the chain ●

The five Ws of data security

BS 10012 helps companies manage the five Ws of data, namely:

- 1** Whose data is it?
- 2** Why are we processing it?
- 3** Where is it kept or transferred to?
- 4** When are we keeping it until?
- 5** What safeguarding mechanisms do we have in place?



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